

Tara Ramlal
Education Committee Testimony
RE: Education Funding Bills SB 948, SB 949 and SB 886
Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Good evening members of the Appropriations Committee.

My name is Tara Ramlal and I am a parent and resident of Waterbury. My son and daughter are currently enrolled at Brass City Charter School in Waterbury where, I am happy to say, they are thriving, even during these unprecedented times. I moved back to Waterbury two years ago after spending almost 8 years in New York City. I wanted my children to receive the same great education that I did.

After moving back to Waterbury I quickly discovered that both the public and private schools were not going to be able to provide my children with the education I wanted them to have. I soon found Brass City Charter School and was thrilled when my son got accepted to start as a Pre-K student this past year. The charter school encourages parents to be accountable and be involved in their child's education, something which I feel is lacking in many of our other educational options. As we all know, now more than ever before, parents are in a position where they have to be directly accountable to their child's education. Being an involved parent is more important now than ever as children today navigate the stresses and challenges of remote learning

As an involved parent, I work to make sure that I am informed about what is happening with education in our state and how my children's education is being funded. I was thrilled to learn that this year Governor Lamont proposed increasing the funding for my children's education to the foundation amount! This increase is not only necessary but overdue. I feel very thankful to see our state's leadership finally beginning to recognize that all children should be funded fairly and valued by our state, no matter where they go to school.

Although this is a monumental and great step that the Governor has taken, I am still here today fighting for my children to be treated equitably. Our Connecticut charter schools serve a large number of children who either come from low-income families or live in high poverty areas. These children should receive the additional dollars through the ECS formula that addresses unique student learning needs. Why should my children continue to be funded based on where they go to school instead of for their needs as individuals?

Let's face it, we as a nation are losing the battle on education. The best and the brightest are being lost in this country due to lack of resources for the education of our low-income, inner-city and children of color. It's time we all get on the ball as parents, teachers, and lawmakers to fund these great schools at an equitable and fair level so that all children can succeed.

I urge you to take this proposed step towards justice and build it even stronger but including all students in the ECS formula.

Thank you.

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